TOP SECRET.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 97TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT 5P.M. IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON TUESDAY THE 6TH JANUARY, 1948.

Present : His Excellency The High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The A/Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H. Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. K.G.Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E. Mills, C.B.E.

1. THE HAIFA HARBOUR ESTATE (C.S.Papers.).

His Excellency consulted Council on proposals made by the Financial Secretary regarding the disposal of the Haifa Estate.

(a) Council advised that Government should agree in principle to the proposal to reduce the reserved price to a twenty year's basis, but that no action should be taken pending a final examination of tenders submitted. So that The lessees' option should not be prejudiced by this arrangement, it was agreed that a second option should be given in case where the higher tender was below the 25-year basis.

(b) Council then took note of material that had recently been published in the/

the local press contesting Government's title to dispose of the Harbour Estate, and advised that the newspapers concerned should be addressed in the terms of a draft letter prepared by the A/Attorney General.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

2. ABOLITION TERMS FOR THE PALESTINE POLICE FORCE (S.U.Papers).

The High Commissioner consulted Council on the reply that should be made to the Secretary of State's telegram No. 46, and ordered that, with regard to paragraph (i) thereof, the Secretary of State should be informed that his proposal to increase the leave gratuity for contract members of the Force appeared to be based on a misapprehension. If this was not the case, ~~may~~ Government should be informed.

With regard to paragraph (ii), the Secretary of State should be informed that there was no objection to the service gratuity, in respect of officers who had completed five years' service, being increased from one month to two months.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

TOP SECRET

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ~~20TH~~ 2nd MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT 5 P.M. ON TUESDAY THE I3TH JANUARY, 1948.

PRESENT : H.E. The High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The A/Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H.Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. K.G.Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E.Mills, C.B.E.

I. THE DRAFT FORESTS ORDINANCE. (AF/IO/46)

The High Commissioner consulted Council as to whether the draft Forests Ordinance should be published in the Palestine Gazette as a bill.

Council, after considering the relative importance of the bill at this stage and the serious staff difficulties being experienced by the Printing Department, advised that the bill should be published in the Gazette provided that the Government Printer could handle its publication without prejudice to more important work.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

2. THE COMMISSIONER ON SPECIAL DUTY'S PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WITHDRAWAL.

Council considered the following aspects of the report and advised as recorded.

(a) Baggage Allowance. (SU papers)

The Civil Service Commissioner should make further inquiries as to the adequacy of the cubic capacity fixed in his circular and submit new proposals if necessary.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

(b) The Lydda and Haifa Airports. (CS papers)

Council noted that a new ordinance would be required enabling the Director of Civil Aviation to administer the Lydda and Haifa Airports after the date of the withdrawal and advised that the Director should be asked to ~~submit~~ expedite his proposals.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

(c) The Haifa-Naqura Railway Line and the Army Cable. (CS.papers)

Council noted that the Army were expecting Government to enact legislation vesting in the ~~Army~~ War Dept the land on which the Haifa-Naqura line had been laid, and to make similar provision for the acquisition of

the land carrying the main telegraphic communication between Egypt and Beyrout through Palestine.

Council advised that the Commissioner on Special Duty should examine and report on these two aspects of the withdrawal before further action was taken.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

(d) Absenteeism in Government Departments. (CS and SU papers)

(i) Council advised that publicity should be given by the Public Information Officer to the harmful and disruptive effect that the present disorders (and the resultant absenteeism in Government Departments) was exercising on such essential activities as the distribution of food and medical supplies, and the efforts that Government was making to compute and discharge its obligations to its Palestinian servants.

(ii) Council took note of the Civil Service Commissioner's report of his negotiations with the staffs of the Accountant General's office and those accommodated in the Palace Hotel, and advised that absenteeism

was no longer justified in view of the security precautions that had been taken in these two places, and that the formula of "leave without pay and liability to instant dismissal" could now ~~conscientiously~~ properly be applied. No disciplinary action, however, beyond the application of this formula, should be taken until His Excellency had had a further opportunity of consulting Council regarding progress made.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

(e) Winding ~~down~~ up of Departments. (SU papers)

Council advised that the Commissioner on Special Duty should put up a scheme for the early running down of Government Departments where the following conditions applied :

(i) Where the work of the Department had been brought to a standstill by the failure of its staff to report for duty.

(ii) Where no alternative site for the Department was available.

(iii) Where the function of the Department was not necessary for the continued administration of the withdrawal.

The Commissioner on Special Duty should nevertheless make special provision for keeping such departments in being for the purpose of handing over to the U.N. Commission, and

should keep in view the political implications that would be associated with this process.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

(f) Land Registration. (SF/25/48)

Council took note of the suggestions made by the Director of Land Registration regarding the closing down of the Land Registries prior to the withdrawal, and of the observations made thereon by the Attorney General, and advised that this subject should be brought up for discussion at the next meeting of the Executive Council.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

(g) Selection of Post-withdrawal Staff. (CS and SU papers).

Council noted that the time had now come to give active consideration to the selection of those Palestine Government officers who would be required to remain in Palestine after the withdrawal, and advised that the composition and selection of the following staffs should be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Council.

(i) The administrative staff required by the G.O.C.
(ii) The staff to be attached to the Foreign Office Mission.
(iii) The staffs to remain with the Accountant General and the Auditor.
(iv) The staff of the Palestine Clearance Office to be established in London.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

TOP SECRET

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT IO AM. IN THE SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE ROOM, ON FRIDAY the I6th January, I948.

PRESENT : H.E. the High Commissioner.

The Chief Secretary.

The A/Attorney General.

The Financial Secretary.

Mr. J.H.H.Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.

Mr. K.G.Lindsay, O.B.E.

Mr. E.Mills, C.B.E.

I. LAND REGISTRATION. (SF/25/48).

His Excellency consulted Council as to whether any steps should be taken to preserve the continuity of land registration after the withdrawal.

Council noted that continuity of land registration after the I5th May would be the exclusive responsibility of the U.N. Commission and advised that any difficulties that the Mandatory Government might now foresee in preserving that continuity should more properly be represented to the U.N. Commission for such action as they might consider appropriate.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

2. SELECTION OF POST-WITHDRAWAL STAFF

His Excellency consulted Council on the general principles underlying the composition, status and administration of the various staffs that would be required to remain in operation, either on secondment or otherwise, after the t ermination of the Mandate.

(a) **Status of the G.O.C.**

Council first considered the status of the General Officer Commanding after the date of the Civil Government's withdrawal.

The G.O.C.'s powers would probably correspond to those of a military commander in enemy occupied territory and would primarily be exercised to secure the safety of his troops and stores during the withdrawal.

The G.O.C. should have the right to exercise overriding administrative authority in order to surmount any obstacles which, in his own opinion, were hindering the process of the evacuation.

(c) The Minister's Staff.

As to whether these powers should be self assumed or conferred by agreement with the U.N. Commission, together with the more doubtful question as to whether the occupied areas should be excluded from the handing over process until the military evacuation was completed, were matters for further consideration, but it was not contemplated that there should be a military administration of the occupied areas.

(d) The Staffs of the Accountant General and the Auditor.

(b) **The G.O.C.'s Staff**

The basic requirements of the G.O.C.'s staff would be met by the following appointments:-

(i) **A Political Adviser. This office would be filled by the Consul General at Haifa who could more properly advise the G.O.C. in matters concerning Government and foreign affairs.**

(ii) **A Chief Civil Officer. This and the following posts would be filled by appointments from the Palestine Government Service. The Chief Civil Officer would act as a liaison officer with local authorities and advise the G.O.C. at points where the process of evacuation required intervention with them. He would require administrative officers to assist him, but numbers depended upon the extent to which the G.O.C. would have to exercise his powers.**

(iii) **A Legal Adviser**

(e) Police. The requirements of the G.O.C. were awaited.

(c) **The Minister's Staff.**

Council noted that proposals had already been made regarding the attachment of Palestine Government officers to the Minister's staff in Jerusalem and that consideration would be given to providing him in addition with certain personnel from the Migration Department who were experienced in consular work.

3. THE HAIFA [illegible]

advice, [illegible] would be [illegible] Estate to the Municipality should be [illegible] basis less [illegible] value of one year's rental; and, further, that this offer should not be made to the Municipality until it was known that a more advantageous sale could not be effected through acceptance of any bids made by closing date on January 15th.

(d) The Staffs of the Accountant General and the Auditor.

A Senior Finance Officer should be appointed for the purpose of taking executive decisions in appeals against assessments of pension benefits etc., and for taking other decisions of a financial nature in Civil Service problems that had arisen, but had not been decided, prior to the termination of the Mandate.

The Minister should not be involved in matters connected with the winding up of the administration, but should pass anything addressed to him on this subject from local sources to the Palestine Clearance Office.

No decisions as to the final composition of these staffs should be made until the Attorney General had returned to Palestine and further opportunity taken to discuss the issued involved by the retention of Government personnel after the termination of the Mandate.

(e) Police. The requirements of the G.O.C. were awaited.

3. THE HAIFA HARBOUR ESTATE (CS papers).

The High Commissioner, after taking Council's advice, ordered that the lowest price at which Government would be prepared to sell the balance of the Haifa Harbour Estate to the Municipality should be on the 20 years' rental basis less an amount in respect of brokerage not exceeding the value of one year's rental; and, further, that this offer should not be made to the Municipality until it was known that a more advantageous sale could not be effected through acceptance of any bids made by closing date on January 15th.

4. ABSENTEEISM IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

His Excellency consulted Council on the present situation regarding absenteeism in Government departments situated in Zones "B" and "C" and the Palace Hotel.

Council advised that no dismissals should be made in departments situated in Zones "B" and "C" until the new security arrangements in the latter had been completed. No dismissals should be made from the staffs accommodated in the Palace Hotel until the position there had been further examined.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

Confirmed

High Commissioner

January 1948.

T O P S E C R E T

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD IN THE SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE ROOM AT 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY THE 23RD JANUARY, 1948.

Present : H. E. The High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H. Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. K.G.Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E. Mills, O.B.E.

In attendance : The General Officer Commanding.

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1. THE DRAFT DIRECTIVE TO THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING. (C.S. papers.).

His Excellency consulted Council on the observations that should be made to the Secretary of State on the draft directive to the General Officer Commanding.

In considering paragraph 4 of the directive Council advised that the words "you have complete control" should be substituted by "you have the power to exercise complete control."

Council then considered the issues involved by the application of the G.O.C's overriding authority to the Ports and Railways during the evacuation, and noted that the status of their Palestinian staffs, after the termination of the Mandate, would be administratively that of essential services operating under the U.N. Commission for the benefit/

benefit of the country as a whole.

In order, then, to obviate any question of obstructing the Commission's task, that might be implied by the G.O.C's direct employment of trained personnel, and, at the same time, to relieve him of any responsibility for maintaining the Ports and Railways outside the withdrawal area, it would be preferable to leave this position undisturbed if possible and to establish the following initial staff relationships.

(a) British members of the staff concerned would be seconded by H.M.G. to the G.O.C. for the purposes of the G.O.C., and paid by him ~~out of~~ Palestine funds. ~~At points where~~ British Officers could be said to be operating for the benefit of the Commission, and therefore for the public, they would be held to be loaned to the Commission ~~free of charge.~~

(b) Palestinian Officers, on the other hand, would be operating under the Commission, for the benefit of the Commission and the service as a whole, and for the benefit of the G.O.C. in as far as their activities were concerned with the evacuation.

If, for political reasons, Palestinian officers declined to work under conditions of service that subordinated them administratively to the U.N. Commission, the G.O.C. would have to depart from the principle in (b) above and employ them on contract for military purposes only.

Council further noted that expenses involved by retaining civil staff under the command of the G.O.C. would be ~~the~~ at least the liability of H.M.G. It would also be the liability of H.M.G. to ~~pay compensation~~ protect against for loss of opportunities to ex-members of the Palestine Government, whose services had been retained by the G.O.C. after the termination of the Mandate. It was also noted that all such payments, being derived from U.K. funds, would, presumably, if no special provision were made, be subject to U.K. income tax.

The General Officer Commanding expressed his satisfaction with these arrangements and stated that he was also satisfied with the arrangements that had been arrived at between himself and the Inspector General regarding the placing of British Police at his disposal.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY

2. THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION QUESTIONARE. (C.S. papers)

His Excellency approved a revised draft of the replies that the U.K. Delegation had made to the U.N. Commission Questionaire, and ordered that it should be transmitted to the Secretary of State.

3. THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S STAFF. (S.U. papers).

His Excellency, after taking Council's advice, ordered that in principle there was no objection to a functional partition of the Accountant/

Accountant General's staff, but that no action should be taken until the possibility of maintaining a joint staff in some place of security (e.g. Cyprus) had been thoroughly explored.

Carfrae

Colonial Service.

High Commissioner

January 1948.

Palestine Government would endeavour to effect this if the War Department were prepared to meet the cost of acquiring the land. It might be pointed out to the Army authorities that it was open to His Majesty's Government to make representations to the U.N. Commission as to purchase on behalf of Palestine

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY

3. EVACUATION OF BRITISH FAMILIES (CO 8 and SU papers)

The High Commissioner consulted Council on the present position regarding the evacuation of

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT 5 p.m. ON TUESDAY THE 27th OF JANUARY, 1948.

Present: **H.E. the High Commissioner.**
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H.Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. K.G.Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E. Mills, C.B.E.

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1. **THE HAIFA-BEYROUT RAILWAY (SF/259/47)**

His Excellency consulted Council on the position of the Military Authorities with regard to their disposal of the Haifa-Naqura section of the line.

Council advised that the Army should be informed that Government had no interest in acquiring the line for itself, but that although it was now rather late to introduce the special legislation that would be required to vest the land on which the Army had laid the track in His Majesty's Government, the Palestine Government would endeavour to effect this if the War Department were prepared to meet the cost of acquiring the land. It might be pointed out to the Army authorities that it was open to His Majesty's Government to make representations to the U.N.Commission as to purchase on behalf of Palestine

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY

2. **EVACUATION OF BRITISH FAMILIES (CS a nd SU papers)**

The High Commissioner consulted Council on the present position regarding the evacuation of

British officers and their families from Palestine.

Council took note of the present situation as described ~~by the Commissi~~oner on Special Duty and advised that a committee ~~which might be~~ composed of Mr. McGeagh Chairman

Mr. Kendall
Mr. Dryburgh
Mr Butterfield
A nominee of the I.G. } Members.

should be formed for the purpose of compiling evacuation lists in relation~~ship~~ to the sea transport that was now known to be available. The lists would be drawn up on a priority basis that would be determined, in the case of an officer, by the extent to which his services were still required by the Government, and, in the case of an officer's family, by the extent to which its general wellbeing would be affected by an early evacuation or one in advance of the husband.

Council noted that the Military Authorities required fourteen days' notice of the passenger lists for each vessel and advised that the committee should begin its work immediately.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

3. ACCOMMODATION FOR THE U.N.COMMISSION (CS papers).

The High Commissioner, after taking Council's advice, approved a draft telegram to the Secretary of State and the British represemtative at Lake Success, drawing attention to the serious probability of political unrest if the Commission established itself in Jerusalem, and pointing out the advantages of alternative sites in other parts of Palestine.

Draft Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Executive Council held at 10 a.m. on Friday, in Tandem.

4. **THE MAGISTRATES COURTS.** (CS a nd SU papers).

His Excellency, after taking Council's advice, ordered that there was no objection to the functional separation of the staff of the Magistrates' Courts in Jerusalem on the sole ground that such separation would afford security of accessibility to the public, but that there was no ground for agreeing to fission of the superior courts.

5. **ABSENTEEISM.** (CS and SU papers).

1. Council took note of the situation that had arisen in Zone "C" as a result of a declared decision to take disciplinary action against absentees in the Chief Justice's and Public Health Departments, with effect from the 20th January, and a subsequent statement by the P.I.O. which had implied that security measures in the Zone were still incomplete, and advised that a new effective date should be fixed in so far as the staffs of the Public Health Department and the Chief Justice were concerned.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED ANDORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

Draft Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Executive Council held at 10 a.m. on Friday, 30th January, 1948.

Present:- H.E. the High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H. Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. I.C.G. Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E. Mills, C.B.E.

1. **Position of Palestinian Staff after the Termination of the Mandate.** (S.U. papers).

His Excellency, after taking Council's advice, approved a draft reply to the Secretary of State's telegram No. 333 of the 27th January.

1. ~~Death Sentence passed upon Abdul Majid Khutbeh Abdul Rahim and Abdul Aziz Khutbeh Abdul Rahim.~~ (J/266/47)

His Excellency, after taking Council's advice, ordered that the law should take its course in the case of Abdul Majid Khutbeh Abdul Rahim and that the sentence of death passed upon Abdul Aziz Khutbeh Abdul Rahim should be commuted. ~~to one of life imprisonment~~.

2. Membership of the Nazareth Municipal Council. (SF/35/48)

The High Commissioner consulted Council on a proposal to increase the number of councillors in the Municipal Corporation of Nazareth from seven to nine.

Council advised that the number should be increased as proposed and that an appropriate order under Section 8 (4) of the Municipal Corporation/

TOP SECRET.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT 5.P.M. IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON TUESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 1948.

Present : His Excellency The High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H. Pollock, C.M.G. & O.B.E.
Mr. E.S.Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E. Mills. C.B.E.

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1. Death Sentence passed upon Adbul Majid Khutbeh Adbul Rahim and Abdul Aziz Khutbeh Adbul Rahim.
(J/266/47)

His Excellency, after taking Council's advice, ordered that the law should take its course in the case of Adbul Majid Khutbeh Adbul Rahim and that the sentence of death passed upon Adbul Aziz Khutbeh Abdul Rahim should be commuted. ~~to one of life imprisonment.~~

2. Membership of the Nazareth Municipal Council.
(SF/35/48)

The High Commissioner consulted Council on a proposal to increase the number of councillors in the Municipal Corporation of Nazareth from seven to nine.

Council advised that the number should be increased as proposed and that an appropriate order under Section 8 (4) of the Municipal Corporation/

Corporation Ordinance, 1934, should be made.

The High Commissioner concurred and ordered accordingly.

3. The Secretary of State's Telegram No. 421 on the subject of the Abolition Terms. (S.U. papers).

The High Commissioner consulted Council on the reply that should be made to the Secretary of State's telegram under discussion.

Council advised that the reply should embody the following assertions.

(a) All decisions connected with the assessment and announcement of abolition benefits for Palestine Government officers lay solely with His Majesty's Government.

(b) The situation created by the termination of the Mandate, in so far as Palestine Government officers were concerned, was one in which the Crown was terminating the employment of Crown officers. The possibility of their being immediately re-employed by the U.N. Commission did not affect this position nor did it alter in any way their status as laid down in Mr Amery's despatch of 1925.

No 480 of 18th June

(c) The Palestine Government could not agree to any course connected with the assessment and publication of abolition terms that created any distinction between expatriate and Palestinian officers.

(d) The abolition terms should be communicated to/

Council advised that the Officer Commanding the Transjordan Frontier Force should be empowered to grant gratuities and to withhold them in cases of desertion, the power to withhold on other grounds remaining with the High Commissioner.

The H.C. Command ordered accordingly

Confirmed

High Commissioner

February 1948.

to the U.N. Commission for information together with the date on which it was intended to announce them. This date would not be later than the 15th February, 1948.

The High Commissioner concurred and ordered accordingly.

4. Gratuities for the T.J.F.F. (S.U.papers).

The High Commissioner, with Council's advice, ordered that, subject to further examination by the Civil Service Commissioner and the Attorney General, the Officer Commanding the Transjordan Frontier Force might be empowered (by delegation of the H.C.'s powers) to grant or withold gratuities only in cases of desertion.

I thought the decision was that he might have powers to grant but not to withhold? Eh

I think that the decision was that the O/C T.J.F.F. should by Administrative action be empowered to commute and pay pensions & gratuities. But that would reserve his powers to declare withheld gratuities. The withholding of gratuities in cases of desertion is automatic & statutory N Eh 2/2.

2/.....

T O P S E C R E T.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD
IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT 5 p.m. ON TUESDAY
THE 10th FEBRUARY, 1948.

Present :- H.E. the High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H. Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. K.G. Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E. Mills, C.B.E.

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1. The Position of British Subjects after the Withdrawal. (S.F/473/47).

The High Commissioner consulted Council on the question of what advice should be given to British subjects with regard to their leaving Palestine as a result of the termination of the Mandate, and as to what measure of assistance and security could be provided for those who found it necessary to remain.

Council noted that the analysis of the last registration of British subjects, during and after 1941, had shown that there were some six thousand persons of British nationality resident in Palestine at that time. The majority of these, however, were either Jewish or had origins that gave them indigenous status in this country and, as such, could be excluded from the present discussion.

Other British subjects, normally domiciled in the United Kingdom, could be considered in three groups:

(a) Official, i.e. Foreign Office, British Council, etc.

(b) Members of the Commercial community.

(c) Missionaries and allied institutions.

Considering these, Council advised that

2/.....

3/....

(i) Members of the commercial and missionary communities should be approached, through the District Commissioners and the Bishop respectively, and advised that their consideration of their future plans should take into account the fact that the degree of practical assistance which could be provided by H.M.G. would be immeasurably greater now, and during the process of the official withdrawal, than after that operation was completed. Whatever their own plans might be, they should give serious consideration to taking advantage of these conditions and sending their wives and children to the U.K. before the end of April. While there did not appear to be any serious difficulties connected with the private arrangement of sea travel, any requests for Government assistance in this respect would have to be communicated to the Palestine Government before the 15th of March.

(ii) In view of the eventual transfer of responsibility for the welfare of British subjects from the Palestine Government to the Foreign Office Representative in Palestine, H.M.G. should be acquainted with the background to this problem and advised of the appropriateness of issuing this advice, as emanating from H.M.G., in the form of para (i) above.

(iii) Further consideration should be given to the preparation of security measures, such as the institution of cantonment areas, for official British residents and others who would remain after the withdrawal.

3/....

(iv) The question of securing reserve stocks of food for remaining British residents should be examined by the District Commissioner, Jerusalem District.

(v) H.M.G. should be requested to tender similarily appropriate advice to British subjects making application for Palestine visas.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

2. Accommodation for the U.N. Commission's Staff. (C.S. papers).

Council considered the position that would confront the arrival of the U.N. Commission's staff in Palestine. While it was in the general interest that they should be accommodated in an area that would satisfy the requirements of

(a) their own personal safety;

(b) security of access to Government offices; and,

(c) neutrality of environment,

it was clear, in view of the Arab boycott of U.N. activities, that the fulfilment of all these conditions would present an almost insuperable problem.

Council advised that the U.N. Commission should be informed of these difficulties and asked to consider the possibility of bringing their own domestic staff with them. The Commission should further be advised that Government could take no responsibility for their safety if their staff chose to be accommodated in a Jewish area.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

Confirmed

7th. 1948. High Comm

T O P S E C R E T.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD IN THE SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE ROOM AT 10 a.m. ON THE 13th FEBRUARY, 1948.

Present :- H.E. the High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H. Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. K.G. Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E. Mills, C.B.E.

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1. The Draft Statute for the City of Jerusalem. (C.S. papers).

His Excellency consulted Council on the Draft Statute for the City of Jerusalem, as submitted by the Working Committee to the Trusteeship Council, and approved a draft telegram to the Secretary of State.

2. Haifa Harbour Estate.

The High Commissioner, after taking Council's advice, ordered that the Haifa Municipality ~~might~~ should be approached through the District Commissioner, and informed that Government was prepared to consider favourably any application for a loan to finance purchase by ~~the sale to~~ the Municipality of those plots not sold to lessees, on the ~~new~~ terms ~~which they had~~ proposed by Government.

Sheet 2/....

3. The Jerusalem Law Courts.

His Excellency consulted Council on the situation that had arisen as a result of the decision to separate the Magistrates' Courts and, after taking Council's advice, ordered that the Arab Higher Executive should be approached and informed that the decision to separate the Magistrates' Courts in Jerusalem had emanated solely from considerations of security and the desire to maintain free access to those Courts for all sections of the community. ~~Government had no intention of rescinding this decision and took the gravest exception to the lack of understanding shown by the Arab Bar Association in their threat to boycott the Courts throughout the country.~~

? trusted that the Arab Bar Association could understand that the Courts outside Jerusalem were [illegible] but that it would be unfortunate if the Association acted in any manner that might prejudice that normality

while it was agreed that the Commission should be in a position to obtain the services of as many experienced Palestinian officers as possible, the situation in which Arab officers were placed was inescapable and the proposal to make the payment of

T O P S E C R E T.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT 9 A.M. IN THE SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE ROOM ON WEDNESDAY THE 18TH FEBRUARY, 1948.

Present: His Excellency The High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H. Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. K.G. Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E. Mills, C.B.E.

In attendance : Mr. T.V. Scrivenor.
(for item No. 1.)

1. **The Abolition Terms.** (SU papers)

The High Commissioner consulted Council on the Secretary of State's telegram No. 583 on the subject of His Majesty's Government's policy with regard to the abolition terms.

In considering the reply that should be made to the Secretary of State, Council advised that new emphasis should be laid on the fact that Arab Government officers would be subjected to such conditions of political pressure and intimidation that it would be clearly impossible to regard them as being free to exercise any personal choice in the matter of serving the Commission.

While it was agreed that the Commission should be in a position to obtain the services of as many experienced Palestinian officers as possible, the situation in which Arab officers were placed was inescapable and the proposal to make the payment of

...2...

their abolition benefits conditional upon their employment with the Commission would, far from having the effect of encouragement, be regarded as a grave injustice from which they could have no redress.

These circumstances should be given their proper weight in drafting the conditions under which payment was to be witheld, and a proviso should be inserted that would give fair and adequate recognition to these circumstances in cases where [any Arab] officer could show good cause for not accepting an offer of employment with the Commission

The Civil Service Commissioner should address the Secretary of State separately on such other points that arose during the discussion.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

2 Rundown of Government Departments. (CS papers).

His Excellency consulted Council on a list drawn up by the District Commissioner, Jerusalem District, giving a proposed order of priority in which Government Departments might be rundown as a result of a lack of guards or failure of staff to report for duty.

Council advised that the District Commissioner ~~proposal be adopted, but that he~~ should now initiate arrangements to run down those departments housed in the Palace Hotel with the exception of the Land Registry, which could remain, and the Agricultural Department, whose staff might be dispersed among institutions under the administration of that Department.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

TOP SECRET.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT 5. P.M. IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON TUESDAY THE 2ND OF MARCH, 1948.

Present:- H.E. The High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H.Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. K.G. Lindsay. O.B.E.
Mr. E. Mills, C.B.E.

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1 ABSENTEEISM IN THE PALACE HOTEL. (SU papers).

His Excellency consulted Council on what action should be taken against Government officers, employed in the Palace Hotel, who continued to absent themselves from duty despite the extensive measures that had been taken to ensure their safety.

Council advised that they should now be called upon to justify their absence from duty in circumstances where all possible precautions had been taken to protect them from hypothetical attack. They should be regarded as being on leave without pay pending receipt of their replies, and, in cases where no reasonable grounds for individual absenteeism could be adduced, dealt with in accordance with General Regulation No. 118 as indicated in paragraph 20 of Staff Circular No. 2/48 of the 28th February, 1948.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

2. REDUCTION OF SUB-ACCOUNTANTS. (SU papers).

The High Commissioner concurred in a proposal to reduce the number of sub-accountants with effect from the 1st April, 1948.

3. THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

The Financial Secretary acquainted Council with the general financial position as at the end of February, 1948. It was noted that the position had generally developed on the lines of the previous forecast.

4. POSITION OF PALESTINE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WHOSE SERVICES WERE TO BE RETAINED, ON SECONDMENT OR OTHERWISE, AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE MANDATE. (SU papers).

The High Commissioner consulted Council on the various problems underlying the employment, after the termination of the Mandate, of Palestine Government officers on establishments other than those administered by the Colonial Office.

~~The termination of the Mandatory Government~~ would leave expatriate Palestine Government officers, who had not been transferred to other Colonial Governments after the 15th May, in a position where they had no parent establishment. Their subsequent employment by the G.O.C., or other employers, would therefore have to be arranged by their secondment in the first instance to His Majesty's Government. In this event, their pension liabilities, subject to the proviso at sub-paragraph (c) below, would remain a responsibility of the Palestine Government. Contract officers would be invited to enter into new contracts with the employed

concerned.

~~Arising out of this discussion, and with a view to safeguarding the rights of officers concerned,~~ Council ~~further~~ advised that

(a) No officer seconded after the 15th May, 1948, should suffer by virtue of that secondment.

(b) Seconded service should be regarded, in so far as income tax, leave and pension rights were concerned, as a continuation of previous service.

(c) Increases to pension benefits etc., occasioned by the addition of seconded service to previous service, must be held as a charge against the employer to whom the officer had been seconded (i.e. His Majesty's Government) and not as a liability of the Palestine Government.

Council advised that these considerations should be represented to the Secretary of State as and when necessary.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

Confirmed

March 1948. High Com

TOP SECRET

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE I2TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD IN THE SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE ROOM AT IO A.M. ON FRIDAY THE 5TH MARCH, I948.

Present : H.E. the High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H.Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. E.Mills, C.B.E.

In attendance : Mr. G.D.Paton.

I. FUTURE POLICY REGARDING THE DEDUCTION OF INCOME TAX AT SOURCE - (S.F.papers)

His Excellency consulted Council on the future policy of deducting income tax at source in particular relationship to the problem that had been created by the decision to terminate the Mandate in the second month of the new financial year, the uncertainty of the form which income tax legislation might take after that date and the general doubts that were felt as to the effectiveness with which such legislation might be administered throughout the country.

The problem fell to be discussed in two phases,

(a) deductions at source during the "year of assessment" I947/48, the liability for which was related to the "year I948/49, and

(b) deductions at source during the "year of assesment" I948/49, the liability for which was related to the financial year I949/50.

Taking the latter first, Council advised that the United Nations Commission should be informed that ~~Government had decided~~ it was required that there ~~should~~ would be no "year of assessment" ~~1948/49~~ 1949/50 and that existing legislation ~~should~~ would be amended to discontinue deductions at source accordingly. The reasons which had led Government to take this decision were as follows

(i) The laws under which deductions at source would normally be made by the Mandatory Government (during the first six weeks of the year ~~of assessment~~ 1948/49) would have been rendered obsolete before the year 1949/50, the period to which these payments were related. There was, therefore, no justification for continuing present practice and giving advance effect to rules which ~~would~~ it must be presumed would ~~certainly~~ be superseded by the fiscal legislation of ~~the Jewish State on the~~ one or more partition States by the 1st October, 1948, ~~and by such other~~ legislation that ~~might~~ be evolved by the ~~Jerusalem and Arab States~~.

(ii) With regard to the moral issues involved and the necessity to treat all sections of the community on the same footing, Government could not continue on a course which would tax one section of the community in advance of an era which held out no guarantee of either uniformity of taxation or of the services that might be rendered in return for it.

Continued

With regard to paragraph (a) above, Council advised that the United Nations Commission should be informed that the Palestine Government felt itself under an obligation to obtain a guarantee from the successor authority, with whom the liability rested, that individuals in respect of whom income tax had already been deducted in advance of the year 1948/49 would be ~~recompensed in the event of its~~ safeguards against the results of possible failure to collect the taxes or otherwise ensure that the burden of taxation fell equally on the community as a whole during that period.

Council considered that failure to obtain such a guarantee from the successor authority would justify the segregation of this revenue in that event might have to in a suspense account with H.M.G., who ~~would~~ be asked to hold it in trust for the individuals concerned and to repay them if conditions made it impossible for the successor authority to preserve their rights.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

2. PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH THE STAFF OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION. (CS papers).

Council advised that Mr. Fletcher-Cooke and the Colonial Office should be acquainted with the results of the preliminary talks with members of the United Nations staff in Palestine.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

Confirmed

date. H. C.

TOP SECRET

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT 5 P.M. IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON TUESDAY THE 9TH MARCH 1948.

Present : His Excellency the High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H.Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. K.G. Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E. Mills, C.B.E.

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1. **THE HEBREW PRESS.**

The High Commissioner consulted Council on a proposal to prosecute certain sections of the Hebrew press for seditious libel.

Council advised that the Secretary of State should be informed that Government did not propose to prosecute at the present juncture, but to issue a warning to the newspapers concerned and, in future, to make full use of the powers at the disposal of the Press Censor.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDER ACCORDINGLY.

2. **THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS.**

His Excellency, after taking Council's advice, ordered that the Attorney General should take the necessary steps to repeal Emergency Legislation on the termination of the Mandate.

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date. H.C.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 14TH. MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT 10 A.M. IN THE SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE ROOM ON FRIDAY THE 12TH. MARCH, 1948.

Present:- H.E. The High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. K.G.Lindsay, O.B.E.

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1. **ABOLITION TERMS (SU papers)**

The High Commissioner consulted Council on the difficulties that were now seen to lie in the path of the Accountant General and Heads of Departments in calculating abolition benefits by the 15th May and on a proposal that some procedure should be adopted that would ensure the payment of at least part of an officer's benefits by that date.

Council advised that Heads of Departments should be directed to work out the minimum statutory benefits due to each officer under Rule 10 and to submit their calculations to the Director of Audit and the Accountant General on the basis of an arranged programme. Checking should be effected by the Director of Audit through a comparison of history cards and personal files.

The Chief Secretary undertook to speak to the Accountant General and the Director of Audit before the meeting with Heads of Departments.

At the same time it should be made clear to Heads of Departments, for the information of Palestinian officers, that these arrangements were designed, in the interests of the officers themselves, to ensure that at least part of their benefits should be made available to them before the 15th May of the minimum benefits to which they would then be entitled.

~~to them on the date of abolition.~~ The calculation of remaining Compensatory payments would depend ~~partly on the exercise of individual officer's options and upon~~ upon circumstances which could not at present be determined. They would not be prejudiced by the foregoing arrangements.

These measures should be reviewed at an early date in order to ensure that all officers affected would receive some payment by the termination of the Mandate.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

2) I.P.C. Oil Concession.

His Excellency referred to item 2 of the minutes of the 89th. meeting of the Executive Council, held on the 21st. November, 1947, and, in view of the Secretary of States concurrence, ordered that arrangements to conclude an agreement with the I.P.C. should now be ~~made.~~ confirmed.

March 1948. High Commissioner

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 15th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD IN THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT 10.00 a.m. ON FRIDAY THE 19th MARCH 1948.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 16TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT 9.A.M. IN THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S

Present.

His Excellency the High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary
The Attorney General
The Financial Secretary
Mr. K.G.Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E.Mills, C.B.E.

Present : His Excellency The High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary,
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. E.Mills, C.B.E.

In attendance : The G.O.C.

1. **Draft Report of the Security Council.**

His Excellency consulted Council on the reply that should be made to the Secretary of State's telegram conveying the draft report of the Security Council.

1. The Draft Report of the Security Council.

2. **Bearer Bonds.**

Council considered the situation which would arise if it became likely that the Jews would attempt to establish a Jewish State before the 15th May. The G.O.C. was present and explained that in that event he would not be in a position to go beyond redeploying his troops in the light of considerations of their own security and without regard to the security of Jews in areas where they were at present stationed for the protection of the Jews. Council noted that the Administration would also be faced with the withdrawal of all Jewish officers.

The Financial Secretary undertook to prepare a proposal for submission to the Secretary of State whereby the price of bearer bonds might be resuscitated through financial provision being made for Government to enter the market as a purchaser.

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COUNCIL ADVISED that:-

(a) A plan of economic sanctions should be prepared including the denial of oil and other essential supplies and the withdrawal of civil government services from Jewish areas;

Middle East suitable opportunities should be taken by High Comm to indicate informally to the Agency that any

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T O P S E C R E T.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 16TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT 9.A.M. IN THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE ON THE 22nD MARCH, 1948.

Present : His Excellency The High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary,
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. K.G.Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E.Mills, C.B.E.

In attendance : The G.O.C.

1. **The Draft Report of the Security Council.**

Council considered the situation which would arise if it became likely that the Jews would attempt to establish a Jewish State before the 15th May. The G.O.C. was present and explained that in that event he would not be in a position to go beyond redeploying his troops in the light of considerations of their own security and without regard to the security of Jews in areas where they were at present stationed for the protection of the Jews. Council noted that the Administration would also be faced with the withdrawal of all Jewish officers. COUNCIL ADVISED that:-

(a) A plan of economic sanctions should be prepared including the denial of oil and other essential supplies and the withdrawal of civil government services from Jewish areas;

(b) That suitable opportunities should be taken to indicate informally to the Agency that any

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coup d'etat of this nature would have serious economic consequences, but that no formal communication should be made so long as the indications of any attempt at a coup d'etat were not strong.

Council noted that the American proposal for a trusteeship depended upon a truce, and expressed their agreement with His Excellency's proposal to telegraph suggesting the despatch of a United Nations Mission to the Middle East to negotiate a truce.

HIS EXCELLENCY CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

His Excellency consulted Council on the future administration of the Public Service (Supplementary) Grants) Board.

Council noted that not only did the bulk of the Board's recurrent commitments relate to claimants resident in [illegible] but that if the Board and its funds were based in England, as had been suggested, then the latter would in all probability be liable to United Kingdom income tax.

Council accordingly advised that the Board's trustees should be resident in this country, ~~that consideration should be given to investing the Board's funds in the United Kingdom~~ and that a small advisory committee should be set up in London for the purpose of dealing with claims relating to expatriate officers. The Secretary of State should be so informed.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

2. T O P S E C R E T.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 17TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT 5.P.M. IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON TUESDAY THE 30TH MARCH, 1948.

Present : His Excellency The High Commissioner.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney General.
The Financial Secretary.
Mr. J.H.H.Pollock, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. K.G.Lindsay, O.B.E.
Mr. E.Mills, C.B.E.

In attendance : Mr. H.C.Hudspith.
(for Item 1)

1. The Public Service (Supplementary Grants) Board. (SU/32/46).

His Excellency consulted Council on the future administration of the Public Service (Supplementary) Grants) Board.

3. The Widows and Orphans Pensions Fund. (SU/484/21/34).

Council noted that not only did the bulk of the Board's recurrent commitments relate to claimants resident in Palestine, but that if the Board and its funds were based in England, as had been suggested, then the latter would in all probability be liable to United Kingdom income tax.

4. Council accordingly advised that the Board ~~trustees~~ should be resident in this country, ~~that consideration should~~ be given to investing the Board's funds ~~in the United Kingdom~~ and that a small advisory committee should be set up in London for the purpose of dealing with claims relating to expatriate officers. The Secretary of State should be so informed.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

2. Two Rent Restriction Bills. (WH/3/1/47.

The High Commissioner consulted Council on the disposal of the Rent Restriction (Dwelling Houses) (Amendment) Bill and the Rent Restriction (Business Premises) (Amendment) Bill, both of which had been given publication in the Palestine Gazette No. 1619 of 1947.

Council advised that, in view of the short time remaining before the termination of the Mandate, and the present tendency for rents to fall below the limits imposed by existing law, no useful purpose could be served by enacting the bills at this stage and that they should accordingly be discarded.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.

3. The Widows and Orphans Pensions Fund. (SU/484/21/34).

The High Commissioner, after taking Council's advice concurred in the Secretary of State's proposal that the Fund should be wound up on the termination of the Mandate and that the necessary legislation should be prepared accordingly.

4. Provident Fund and Temporary Officers. (CSU/38/1/47).

The High Commissioner consulted Council on a proposal to increase the amount payable to Provident Fund and Temporary Officers on the abolition of their offices by extending their grant of leave period by fifteen days.

Council considered that there was some justification/

justification for making a larger sum available to these officers on the 15th May in view of the growing uncertainty surrounding their reemployment.

If, however, increases were to be made to the abolition benefits as affecting these officers, then opportunity should be taken to give more appropriate recognition to the career status of the Provident Fund Officer. Council then advised that the matter was one which required further detailed ~~discussion~~ investigation (Kyd.) and that the Civil Service Commissioner should be asked to submit new proposals, making this distinction of treatment between the Provident Fund and the Temporary Officer, and basing the proposed terms on whatever formula he found most appropriate to the requirements of the situation.

9. Indents for Stores.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCURRED AND ORDERED ACCORDINGLY.